

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01898 221527Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 093931 /53

O 221130Z DEC 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3947
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1898

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS

REF: A. BAGHDAD 1894 B. STATE 306916

1. SOURCE CITED IN BAGHDAD 1855 AND 1894 INFORMED ON DECEMBER 22 THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN LENGTHY MEETING NIGHT OF DECEMBER 21 WHERE PURCHASE OF ARMS BY UN MISSION WAS DISCUSSED BY OFFICIALS OF THE MUKHABARET, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND SADDAM HUSSEIN'S PERSONAL STAFF. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ONLY ONE PRESENT WHO ARGUED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF TAYYAR FROM UN MISSION AND FOR RETURN OF ARMS TO NEW YORK. FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION, BASED ON REPORTING FROM IRAQ'S UN MISSION, WAS THAT WHOLE AFFAIR WAS A STORM IN A CUP THAT WOULD QUICKLY BLOW OVER. USG WOULD NOT INSIST ON TAYYAR'S WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT GOI WOULD RETALIATE BY DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL OF A MEMBER OF USINT STAFF AND USG WOULD NOT WANT TO DISTURB THE RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOI.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT HE POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR WAS MAINTAINING THAT HE HAD ONLY RECEIVED 70. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD ARGUED THAT USG HAD LEGITIMATE REASON FOR CONCERN ABOUT OTHER 30 WEAPONS SINCE, FOR ALL THEY KNEW, IRAQI MISSION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01898 221527Z

COULD HAVE DISTRIBUTED THEM TO RADICAL ELEMENTS WITHIN UNITED STATES.

3. SOURCE SAID HE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS WITH THESE ARGUMENTS. MOST OF GROUPOU HAD BEEN CONVINCED BY IRAQI MISSIONS OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE REPORTING. HE SAID THAT SHAIKHLY AND TAYYAR WERE

BOTH SERIOUSLY DISTORTING THE TRUE SITUATION IN DESPERATE HOPE OF SAVING THEIR OWN NECKS. TAYYAR SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO STAY IN NEW YORK AND FOREIGN MINISTRY WANTED TO KEEP HIM THERE SINCE HE WAS "ACTIVE".

4. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NOW DISCOVERED THAT NOT ALL OF THE 30 ADDITIONAL WEAPONS HAD BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE MUKHABARAT HAD NOT KEPT GOOD RECORDS OF THEIR DISPOSITION OF MUKHABARET PERSONNEL. HE SAID HE BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE THAT ARMS HAD BEEN KEPT AT THE UN MISSION OR EVEN HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO "FRIENDS" IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. SOURCE SAID THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES WERE RELUCTANT TO SEND THOSE WEAPONS THEY ACCOUNT FOR BACK TO NEW YORK BY DIPLOMATIC POUCH BECAUSE THEY FEARED THAT THE POUCHES WOULD NOW BE INTERCEPTED AND OPENED, THEREBY PUTTING THE IRAQI UN MISSION IN EVEN HOTTER WATER.

6. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS FAILURE OF IRAQI UN MISSION TO REPORT ACCURATELY ON SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS THIS WHOLE AFFAIR, I RECOMMEND THAT WE NOW MOVE QUICKLY TO CONVEY OUR FEELINGS TO GOI THROUGH MORE DIRECT CHANNELS. I RECOMMEND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE SUBJECT UP AT AS HIGH A LEVEL AS POSSIBLE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY USING INSTRUCTIONS PREVIOUSLY SENT TO USUN. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT, AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL, PREFERABLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY AHERTON, CALL IN AMIN AL HASSAN, THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER OF THE IRAQI INTEREST SECTION, AND CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO HIM, PREFERABLY WITH AN AIDE-MEMOIRE IN WRITING THAT HE CAN TRANSMIT VERBATIM TO BAGHDAD.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01898 221527Z

UM IF USUN HAS REQUESTED TAYYAR'S EXPULSION AS AUTHORIZED STATE 306916, GOI WILL PROBABLY REACT BY DECLARING ONE OF OUR STAFF PNG, WHEN AND IF SHAIKHLI REPORTS OUR ACTION TO GOI. PLEASE ADVISE USINT ASAP IF ACTION AGAINST TAYYAR HAS BEEN TAKEN.

8. DUE PRIMARILY TO SHAIKHLI'S BAD JUDGEMENT, THIS MATTER IS NOW ESCALATING TO POINT WHERE IT COULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN US-GOI RELATIONS. I BELIEVE IT IS NOW ESSENTIALY TO MOVE DIALOGUE AWAY FROM IRAQI UN MISSION, AS SHAIKHLI IS TOO DEEPLY IMPLICATED IN MISREPRESENTATIONS TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO BE OF MUCH USE AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION.

9. DECEMBER 22 IS LOCAL HOLIDAY IN IRAQ. GOI OFFICES WILL BE OPENED DECEMBER 23 AND THEN CLOSED FOR REGULAR FRIDAY DAY OF REST ON DECEMBER 24. IF POSSIBLE REQUEST DEPARTMENT SEND ME INSTRUCTIONS TODAY DECEMBER 22, SO I CAN APPROACH FOREIGN

MINISTRY ON DECEMBER 23. WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, MACHINE GUNS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BAGHDA01898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760469-0961
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761218/aaaaapnr.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BAGHDAD 1894
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006